

OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON OPPORTUNITY FUNDING

November 25, 2019
Department of Education Cabinet Conference Room
Townsend Building, Dover, DE

Chair Superintendent Dorrell Green called the second meeting of the Oversight Committee on Opportunity Funding to order at 5:05 p.m. on Monday, November 25th. In attendance were Committee members Brody Bluemel, Susan Bunting, Brent Carter, Maureen Darlington, Holly Garcia, Julie Giangiulio, Ashley Giska, Dorrell Green, Deshawn Jenkins, Diana Magana, and Linda Poole and one community member.

Welcome

After welcoming meeting participants, Dorrell Green thanked attendees for attending on a Monday before a holiday.

Approval of the October 28th, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Brody Bluemel motioned to approve the October 28th minutes, a motion that was seconded by Linda Poole. Meeting participants unanimously supported the motion.

Prioritize Goals for Committee

As an introduction to the goals prioritization, Dorrell directed participants to peruse the spreadsheet of Opportunity Funding (OF) activities which each district/charter intends to invest in during the 2019-20 school year. Susan Bunting outlined the Rand Corporation's more extensive analysis of OF and the Student Success Block Grant effectiveness, delineated their survey and interview plans, and shared information from the timeline presented during their initial meeting with the Department of Education. Dorrell explained that the Executive Order requires this group to "evaluate" programs and identify best practices. Referencing last year's Opportunity Grant (OG) projects, he displayed the executive summary from University of Delaware's CRESP, which reflected results of last year's investments.

Recommendations for Opportunity Fund Analysis Project

After covering 2018-19 OG highlights, he accented qualitative aspects of the investments and provided graphs of other uses that translated into quantitative measures. Meeting participants then questioned whether, since Rand is carefully looking at many aspects of the OF investments, should we be looking at the areas that we listed at the previous meeting. The group generally agreed that we should study OF investments in people, programs and processes. Dorrell emphasized that since the committee is charged with providing a report to the Governor, specific legislators, and the Secretary of Education regarding OF practices and has expressed interest in capturing what's working, perhaps the wisest plan is to produce a briefing that outlines the breakdown of current year investments, the application to submission to approval process, the release of funds, and how OF use will be evaluated. Meeting participants emphasized the need for term definition and transparency.

Discussion

Committee members engaged in lively discussion throughout the meeting. The debate resulted in the decision to develop a 2-4 page report with general documentation of what is involved, attractive graphics featuring district/charter demographic data, and the Rand compilation of what each district/charter is doing with the money as well as an explanation of what the group plans to do in the upcoming months.

- Dorrell volunteered to have his design department to create impressive graphics.
- Susan will send a more detailed Rand spreadsheet to committee members.
- A draft of the report will be send to committee members by 12/13 for their perusal and subsequent approval.

Introductions occurred at the end before the public comments at request participants' request.

Public Comment

One community member offered public comments that included support for the proposed report, advocacy for a glossary, a desire for additional information regarding student numbers, and an emphasis on transparency. Dorrell Green commented that Report #2 will be more specific about numbers affected by the monies, accented that we must stick to charge given to the group via Executive Order #33, and reiterated what has been planned for the December 31st report.

Adjournment

He subsequently adjourned the meeting at 6:31 pm.

Next Meeting

January 13, 2019, Townsend Building, Library Conference Room



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